

Marie Wade. In addition, he is survived by his brothers Cory Alan Lee, Zachary Daniel Wade and his fiancée Victoria Lloyd; his niece Molly Diane Wade; maternal grandmother Denise Webb; maternal grandfather, Gerald Lee, Sr.; paternal grandmother Betsy Brown and her husband Tommy Brown; paternal grandfather, Daniel Lee Wade, Sr., and his wife Linda as well as several aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends. He was preceded in death by his brother Adrian David Wade.

Sergeant Tristan Mykal Wade is a quintessential Hoosier, and true American hero. Let us always remember and treasure the memory of this stalwart, brave man and honor him for protecting our treasured country. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CHARLES MCGEE

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to join the Columbia College Alumni Association in recognizing one of the college's most prestigious alumni. Colonel Charles McGee is among the most decorated and accomplished Air Force aviators, holding an Air Force record of 409 fighter combat missions flown in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. I am proud to applaud him for his invaluable service and contributions to the Air Force, Kansas City, and to our country.

Charles E. McGee was one of the renowned Tuskegee Airmen of World War II and continued his service as a career officer in the U.S. Air Force for 30 years. He was born in Cleveland, OH on December 7, 1919, and as a young man, McGee was a member of the Boy Scouts of America, BSA, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout on August 9, 1940. He later served in district and regional positions in the BSA. At the 2010 National Scout Jamboree, he was recognized with the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award.

During the Vietnam War, as a Lieutenant Colonel, McGee flew 172 combat missions in a McDonnell RF-4 photo-reconnaissance aircraft. After a series of other appointments in the United States, Italy and Germany and promotion to Colonel, McGee retired on January 31, 1973. He ended his military career with an impressive 6,308 flying hours. Following his military service, McGee has held many prestigious functional and honorary positions within the field of aviation.

In 1978, at the age of 58, he completed his college degree at Columbia College in Kansas City, over 30 years after his initial enrollment at the University of Illinois. Though interrupted by World War II, attaining a college degree had been a lifelong goal. I am honored to have the opportunity to congratulate Colonel McGee for this great achieve-

ment and am proud that he chose to complete his studies and continue his impressive career in the great State of Missouri.

In his civilian life, McGee served as the director of the Kansas City downtown airport and as a member of the Aviation Advisory Commission. For 30 years, he has been an ambassador of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., serving three times as national president. He has shared his story in numerous public addresses and has received many accolades, including the National Aeronautical Association's Elder Statesman of Aviation.

In 2005, McGee was part of a group of former Tuskegee Airmen who flew to Balad, Iraq to speak to active duty airmen serving in the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, the current incarnation of the 332nd Fighter Group.

McGee has been recognized for his combat and military service with a number of awards including: Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Air Medal with 25 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, Hellenic Republic World War II Commemorative Medal, along with related campaign and service ribbons.

In 2007, President George W. Bush awarded him and the surviving Tuskegee Airmen the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest civilian award, and in 2011, he was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, OH.

I am honored to join Columbia College in celebrating Colonel Charles McGee's accomplishments and service, from which we have all greatly benefited. I want to thank Colonel McGee for his leadership in the field of aviation, in our military, and in his community.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL NORBERT CZECH

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Nevada educator and veteran, Lieutenant Colonel Norbert Czech, for his retirement as the District Army Instructor, DAI. His selfless work for the District JROTC Program and with the veterans of Northern Nevada make him truly deserving of our appreciation.

LTC Czech received his commission through the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School in 1970. He served honorably with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment along the East/West German border as the Regimental Adjutant and Executive Officer. His final assignment was as the Professor of Military Science at the University of Nevada, Reno, UNR, where he was responsible for the recruitment, training, and commissioning of more than 100 Army Second Lieutenants.

Following his retirement from the U.S. Army, LTC Czech established the

Army JROTC Program at Galena High School. He went on to serve as the Director of the Washoe County JROTC Programs for 5 years. Last year he was honored as the Nation's best District Army Instructor.

Not only has LTC Czech had a lasting impact on the young students of Nevada through the JROTC program, but he has helped his fellow military veterans in Northern Nevada. He is an active member of the 82nd Association, the Westmoreland Chapter of Association of the United States Army—AUSA—and the Veterans Guest House, which was created as a place for military veterans and their families to stay when they are receiving treatments at area hospitals.

I am continually humbled by the sacrifices made by the brave men and women in the Armed Forces who fight to preserve freedom in the United States. They faced dangerous situations in order to protect Americans from harm and deserve our utmost respect. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I will continue fighting for veterans' benefits and supporting all of our men and women in uniform.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating LTC Norbert Czech for his accomplishments and expressing my sincere gratitude to him for his service and contributions to Nevada's students and military veterans. He is a true American hero.●

TRIBUTE TO KATY SIMON

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Katy Simon as she retires from the position of Washoe County Manager, a title which she proudly held for 15 years. Ms. Simon's diligence and determination has made her an extraordinary leader to the people of Washoe County.

Ms. Simon was appointed Washoe County Manager in 1998 after serving 2 years as assistant county manager for Finance and 1 year as deputy county manager. Prior to her appointments, she was the owner and principal consultant for Simon and Associates Management Consulting, providing services both here in the United States and overseas. She also served executive positions with Washoe Health System.

Ms. Simon's dedication to the people of Northern Nevada has not gone without notice. During her implementation of the employee classification and compensation system, she was recognized twice by the State legislature for objectivity and fairness. Additionally, she was accountable for the successful startup of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. These are just a few examples of Ms. Simon's efforts to promote the growth and development within her community and the State.

Resilience and persistence aided Ms. Simon as she helped Washoe County through 5 years of the toughest economic times this great county had ever seen. She took Washoe County from a